

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NSCE-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /158 W
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R 160931Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 249

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: TAIPEI 6853

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE 10TH KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE HELD IN TAIPEI NOVEMBER 12-15 ELECTED A NEW STANDING COMMITTEE, APPROVED GUIDELINES FOR PARTY WORK DURING THE COMING YEAR AND PRODUCED NO MAJOR SURPRISES. IN HIS FIRST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SINCE BECOMING PREMIER, CHIANG CHING-KUO PLAYED A MORE PROMINENT ROLE THAN IN THE PAST. AS NOTED REFTTEL, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK DID NOT ATTEND MEETINGS, THE IMPRESSION WAS GIVEN HE WAS ACTIVE IN MANY AREAS INCLUDING SELECTION OF THE PRESIDUM AND STANDING COMMITTEE, RECVING THE PRESIDUM, ISSUING THE DIRECTIVE FOR MEETING, AND EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH COMPLETED WORK. JUDGING BY THE
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PRESS TREATMENT, KMT ALSO WISHED TO EMPHASIZE

--AT LEAST TO ITS OWN PEOPLE-- THE
CONTRAST BETWEEN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND
THE TENTH CCP CONGRESS IN PEKING--I.E., OPENNESS AND
UNANIMITY VERSUS SECRECY AND DIVISION.

2. ALTHOUGH THE MAIN THRUST OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DID NOT DIFFER GREATLY
FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING--RECOVER THE MAINLAND,
SELF-RELIANCE IN THE FACE OF INTERNATIONAL ADVERSITY,
MORE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF TAIWAN--MORE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WERE ENUMERATED
IN THE ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE FIELDS.

3. ONLY TWO CHANGES IN NEW STANDING COMMITTEE--FOREIGN
MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN REPLACED AGING AND INACTIVE
CHOU CHIH-JOU AND NEW MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
KAO KUEI-YUAN REPLACED HIS LATE PREDECESSOR CHEN TA-CHING.
INTERESTINGLY, INSTEAD OF "ELECTING" THE STANDING COMMITTEE
AS IN THE PAST, THE COMMITTEE NOMINATED BY THE
PRESIDENT WAS "UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED," THUS PUBLICLY
EMPHASIZING BOTH PRESIDENTIAL INVOLVEMENT AND UNANIMITY.

4. IN OFFICIAL LISTING OF NEW STANDING COMMITTEE,
ARCH-CONSERVATIVE KU CHENG-KANG MOVED FROM THE
SIXTH POSITION HE HELD IN LAST YEAR'S LIST BACK TO
THE THIRD POSITION HE HAD HELD IN EARLIER SESSIONS,
WHILE PREMIER CHIANG DROPPED FROM NUMBER ONE TO TWO
AND VICE PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN RETURNED TO NUMBER ONE.
THE MOVE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT BACK TO NUMBER
ONE IS CORRECT IN PROTOCOL TERMS, BUT THE RE-ELEVATION
OF KU CHENG-KANG IS LESS EASILY EXPLAINABLE. IN
ANY EVENT, LISTING SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS
INDICATING RELATIVE INFLUENCE. PARENTHETICALLY, LAST
YEAR'S LISTING WAS IN ORDER OF VOTES RECEIVED.

5. COMMENT: IMAGE OF CCK AS ACTIVIST PUBLIC LEADER
WITH PRESIDENT CHIANG AS ELDER STATESMEN IN
THE BACKGROUND PRESENTED AT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING
IS SYMBOLIC OF CURRENT PICTURE PRESENTED ON TAIWAN
OF SMOOTH SUCCESSION AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT. SPECIFIC
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EMPHASIS IN PARTY RESOLUTIONS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ALSO HIGHLIGHTS KEY AREAS
OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT INTEREST. LACK OF
CHANGE IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COUPLED WITH ELEVATION
OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER TO CENTRAL
COMMITTEE, STRONGLY IMPLIES THAT KEY POSITIONS WILL
NOT CHANGE. REACTION AMONG BOTH POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED
AND THE ORDINARY MAN ON THE STREET HAS BEEN TO TREAT

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AS NON-EVENT.
GLEYSTEN

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NNN

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